

News from Rep. Stephanie Herseth

For Immediate Release

Contact: Russ Levsen, 202-226-4449

HERSETH STATEMENT ON DECLARATION OF FEDERAL DISASTER AID

December 20, 2005, Sioux Falls, SD – U.S. Rep. Stephanie Herseth released the following statement in response to the President's declaration of a major disaster for South Dakota to help communities recover from the severe winter storm in late November.

Rep. Herseth said, "This declaration is recognition of the severe impact of the recent storm on families and communities across much of eastern South Dakota. This powerful storm not only left many residents temporarily without access to food, water or electricity, it also caused significant damage to public facilities and infrastructure. I'm hopeful that today's declaration will provide needed assistance, and bolster recovery efforts at the state and local level that are already well underway."

Herseth noted that the declaration provides that additional designations are possible in the future as needs are further evaluated. Earlier this month, following the Governor's request for disaster aid, Herseth and the rest of the South Dakota delegation expressed their strong support for a federal declaration through a letter to the President.

#

Congresswoman Stephanie Herseth serves South Dakota in the U.S. House of Representatives. She is a member of the Blue Dog Coalition, a group of moderate Democrats committed to fiscal discipline and strong national security, and is co-chair of the Rural Working Group, which

is dedicated to raising the profile of issues important to rural America. She also serves on three committees vital to South Dakota's interests. Agriculture, Veterans' Affairs and Resources.